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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00584 281131Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /022 W
----------109562 281154Z /47
R 281100Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3457
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 0584

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, NS, RQ
SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 062552 (NOTAL)

1. FOURTEEN-MAN TRADE MISSION SPONSORED BY PUERTO RICAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND APPROVED BY U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DEPARTED PARAMARIBO JUNE 26 AFTER SUCCESSFUL FOUR-DAY STAY IN SURINAM. MISSION LEADERS ESTIMATED IMMEDIATE SALES WERE $100,000-150,000 AND SALES OF MORE THAN $1.1 MILLION WOULD RESULT WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS. IN ADDITION TO ANTICIPATED SALES, MISSION MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES IN INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES, RICE FARMING, FISHING, TEXTILES AND CEMENT WITH BOTH PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. TRADE MISSION, WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT FIRMS, TWO BANKS, AND THE PUERTO RICO PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, HAD NEARLY 100 APPOINTMENTS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND GOS OFFICIALS. MISSION DIRECTOR WAS EFRAIN SANTIAGO, VICE PRESIDENT OF HALCO SALES, INC., AND FORMER SECRETARY OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN
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PUERTO RICO, WHILE WILDO RODRIGUIZ, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN TRADE PROMOTION DIVISION OF THE PUERTO RICAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SERVED AS MISSION COORDINATOR.

3. MISSION WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT FERRIER OF SURINAM, WHO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT TIES BETWEEN SURINAM AND PUERTO RICO WOULD EXPAND. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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BURMA ADDRESSED MISSION, OFFERED ALL POSSIBLE
COOPERATION IN INCREASING COMMERCIAL TIES
BETWEEN SURINAM AND PUERTO RICO AND CALLED FOR THE
CREATION OF A JOINT COMMISSION OF PUERTO RICAN AND
SURINAMESE EXPERTS TO STUDY OBSTACLES TO TRADE,
INCLUDING TAFIFFS (WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR EXAMPLE, ADVERSELY
AFFECT SURINAM'S LUMBER AND PLYWOOD INDUSTRY), WITH A VIEW
TOWARD THEIR REMOVAL. BURMA ALSO INVITED PUERTO RICAN
PARTICIPATION IN JOINT VENTURES. MISSION ALSO MET
WITH PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND
OTHER CHAMBER OFFICERS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONSIDERS WARMTH OF RECEPTION FOR
PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION AND OBVIOUS COMMERCIAL RESULTS
AS PROOF OF MISSION'S SUCCESS AND ANOTHER INDICATION
OF GROWING INTEREST IN SURINAM IN EXPANDING TRADE
TIES WITH PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. THIS IS THIRD
TRADE MISSION FROM PUERTO RICO TO VISIT SURINAM SINCE
1964, AND IF CONTACTS ESTABLISHED PREVIOUSLY AND
ON THIS TRIP ARE FOLLOWED UP, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO
BELIEVE FUTURE MISSIONS WILL ALSO BE WELCOME. PROSPECTS
FOR INCREASING THE APPROXIMATELY $2 MILLION ANNUAL
TRADE BETWEEN SURINAM AND PUERTO RICO (WHICH IS HEAVILY
IN PUERTO RICO'S FAVOR) ARE THUS PROMISING.
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Disposition Comment:
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Subject: SUCCESSFUL PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, NS, RQ
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